REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to correct a typographical error in the description of the drawings, claim 4 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5 therein, claims 5, 7, 9 and 11 are canceled, claim 12 is amended to address the objection thereto, and claim 13 is amended to revise its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 5. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-3 are allowed, that claim 12 is allowable once the objection is overcome, and that claims 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Objection

Claim 12 was objected to on the grounds that the term "al engine" should be replaced with "a length." Claim 12 is accordingly amended in accordance with the Patent Office's suggestion. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 12 is overcome.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 4, 6, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,514,199 to Houpt. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the Office Action indicated that claim 5 contained allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CWB/wp

Date: August 10, 2004

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